

REMARKS

In response to the Official Office Action dated April 14, 2006, the claims have been amended to address the rejections of the claims under § 112. In claim 1, antecedent basis for the term “security module” has been included in the preamble of the claim. In claim 11, the term “security module” has been changed to “secure processor.” Throughout the claims, the term ‘data entry screen’ has been changed back to “password entry screen.” Finally, the dependency of claims 14, 15, and 17 has been corrected by making these claims dependent on claim 11. These amendments do not raise new issues, but simply correct certain informalities in the claims that were noted by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these amendments be entered.

Regarding the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the Examiner has ignored the functional language of the claim that describes the function of the authentication indicia. As stated in claims 1 and 11, the authentication indicia is used “for authenticating password entry screens to a user.” The authentication function is performed by including the authentication indicia on the password entry screen when the password entry screen is displayed. The user can differentiate a valid password entry screen from an invalid password entry screen by the presence of the authentication indicia. A valid password entry screen would always contain the authentication indicia. On the other hand, an invalid data entry screen would not include the authentication indicia.

The references relied on by the Examiner do not teach or suggest storing authentication indicia in a memory for authenticating password entry screens, or displaying password entry screens containing the authentication indicia. Simply put, the user name and password entered by the user to gain access to a secure system is not authentication indicia for authenticating password entry screens to a user. On the contrary, the user name and password comprise data used to authenticate the user to the computer.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully urged that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.



Dated: June 6, 2006

David E. Bennett
Registration No.: 32,194

P.O. Box 5
Raleigh, NC 27602
Telephone: (919) 854-1844
Facsimile: (919) 854-2084